

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Claims 1 and 4-6 are pending herein. Claim 1 has been amended as supported by Figs. 1-3 of the present application, for example. Applicants respectfully submit that no new matter has been added.

Examiner Vanaman is thanked for courtesies extended to Applicants' undersigned representative during a telephonic interview on February 23, 2007. The substance of that interview has been incorporated into the following remarks.

During the interview, Examiner Vanaman indicated that claim amendments filed herewith would not be entered for consideration at the present stage of prosecution (i.e., after final) without an RCE.

1. Claims 1, 5 and 6 were rejected under §102(b) over Fagot. To the extent that this rejection may be applied against the amended claims, it is respectfully traversed.

Claim 1 recites a gliding board comprising a gliding surface that terminates in at least one raised end. The end begins the low point along the gliding surface and extends to a highest point. The end has a peripheral zone and a central zone, the peripheral zone extending from sides of the end toward the central zone of the end, and the peripheral zone having a thickness which is less than a thickness of the central zone of the end. Claim 1 has been amended to clarify that the peripheral zone is connected to the central zone by a discontinuity that forms an inflexion surface continuously extending throughout a length of the discontinuity in the end to form a smooth arc between the sides of the end. Claim 1 has been further amended to clarify that a vertex of the arc extends to a highest point of the inflexion surface along the end at a point substantially along a center longitudinal axis of the gliding board.

The PTO is respectfully requested to note that the term "arc" is defined using the traditional definition, which is something that is an arched or curved shape (see the attached definition of "arc" from *Webster's Third New International Dictionary, Unabridged*. Merriam-Webster, 2002. <http://unabridged.merriam-webster.com>). The PTO is further requested to note that the word "smooth" has been added to emphasize

that the arc is a continuous curved line or path, without abrupt changes or intersections caused by the termination of one arc in the beginning of another arc (see *Id*).

With regard to the word “vertex,” the PTO is respectfully requested to note that the term is defined using the traditional definition, which is a high point of an arc (see the attached definition of “vertex” from *Webster’s Third New International Dictionary, Unabridged*. Merriam-Webster, 2002. <http://unabridged.merriam-webster.com>).

Fagot discloses, in Figs. 22, 24, 32 and 34, a gliding board having a peripheral zone 14 surrounding a central zone 7. The inflexion surface 13 formed between the peripheral zone 14 and the central zone 7 terminates along at the longitudinal axis of the gliding board at a point where the two side edges 22 of the central zone 7 intersect and terminate. Accordingly, Fagot discloses the inclusion of two separate inflexion surfaces 13, one on each side of the longitudinal axis of the gliding board. In other words, the inflexion surface 13 of Fagot is not continuous throughout a length of the discontinuity in the end 4 of the gliding board. Further, the inflexion surface 13 of Fagot creates two individual arcs, each of which terminates at the leading edge of the central zone 7, which terminates at a point located along the longitudinal axis of the gliding board.

For at least the foregoing reasons, Fagot fails to disclose or suggest a gliding board comprising an inflexion surface continuously extending throughout a length of the discontinuity in the end to form a smooth arc between the sides of the end, as recited in claim 1. Since claims 5 and 6 depend directly from claim 1, those claims are also believed to be allowable over the applied prior art. Accordingly, reconsideration and withdrawal of the present rejection are respectfully requested.

2. Claim 4 was rejected under §103(a) over Fagot in view of Emig.

Emig, used by the Examiner only for alleged disclosure of edges, fails to overcome the deficiencies of Fagot as attempted to be applied to claim 1, from which claim 4 depends. Accordingly, reconsideration and withdrawal of this rejection are respectfully requested.

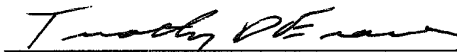
If Examiner Vanaman believes that further contact with Applicants' attorney would be advantageous toward the disposition of this case, he is herein requested to call Applicants' attorney at the phone number noted below.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees associated with this communication or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 50-1446.

Respectfully submitted,

February 23, 2007

Date



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SPB/TE/tlp

Attachments:

Dictionary Definitions of "arc" and "vertex"

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